



AZ DFFM Presentation to the AZ Resiliency and Mitigation Council

April 9, 2025

Thomas Torres, Director/State Forester
John Richardson, Asst. Director Forestry
Michael Hale, State Dispatch Center Manager

Agenda

- ❑ Fire Outlook & 5 Yr. History
 - ❑ Tom Torres, State Forester

- ❑ Wildfire Mitigation Program —
 - ❑ John Richardson, Asst. Director - Forestry

- ❑ Wildfire Response
 - ❑ Michael Hale, Fire Dispatch Center Manager

Organization Overview



FIRE Asst. Director (State Fire Mgmt. Officer): **John Truett**

Dep. State Fire Management Officer: **Todd Abel**

Asst. State Fire Management Officer: **Russ Shumate**

Asst. State Fire Management Officer: **PJ Lingley**

FORESTRY Assistant Director Forestry: **John Richardson**

Deputy Assistant Director Forestry: **Cori Dolan**

A1S (Flagstaff)

Division Fire Chief: **Rick Miller**

District Forester: **Johnathan Pelak**

A4S (Apache Junction)

Division Fire Chief: **Bob Arthur**

District Forester: **Franklin Hines**

A2S (Lakeside)

Division Fire Chief: **Lehi Vizcaino**

District Forester: **Jon Orona**

A5S (Chino Valley)

Division Fire Chief: **Darrell Willis**

District Forester: **Rich VanDemark**

A3S (Tucson)

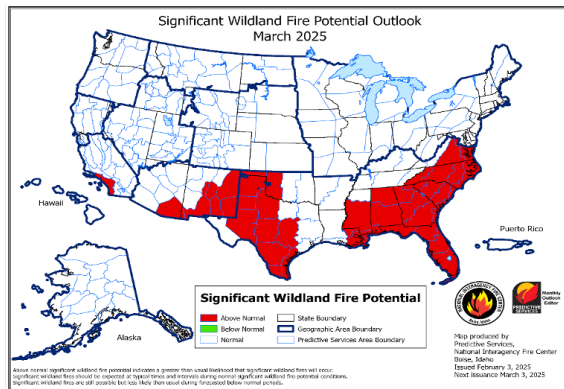
Dispatch Center Manager: **Michael Hale**

Division Fire Chief: **Lathe Evans**

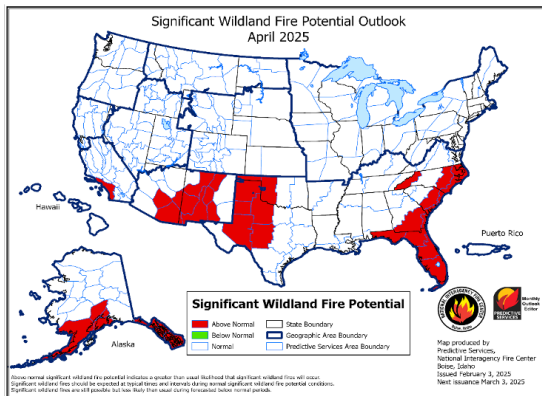
District Forester: **Jessie Warner**

2025 Wildland Fire Outlook and Seasonal Factors

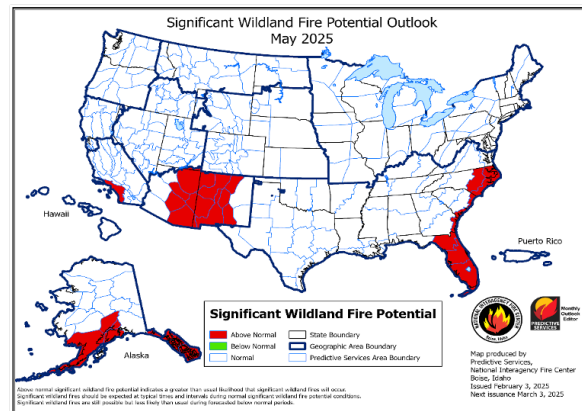
March



April



May

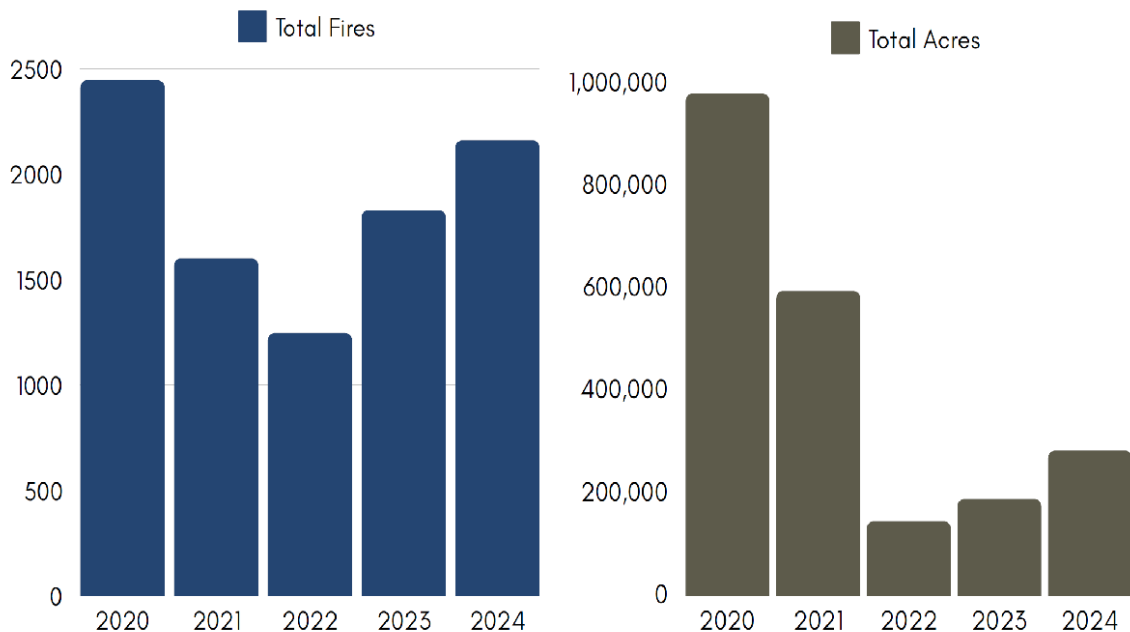


- Drought conditions persist with impacts to fine fuel vegetation; grasses and brush; more significant drought conditions throughout western Arizona
- Above normal temperatures (Feb-April) nearly statewide

- Windy conditions which could induce critical fire burn behavior
- Above normal fuel yields along and south of Mogollon
- Impacts to southern Arizona, including far SE Arizona & Sonoran Desert landscapes

Statewide Fire Activity: 2020 - 2024

Total Fires vs. Acres Burned



5 Yr. Averages

1,860 fires/yr.
442,000 acre/yr.
\$12.9 mil./yr (State)

2024

2,160 fires
282,000 acres

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) – Risk

Housing Units in WUI* Area by AZ County

COUNTY	1990	2000	2010	2020	% change 1990 - 2020
Apache County	16,570	19,892	20,906	18,779	13%
Cochise County	36,243	46,268	53,654	53,834	49%
Coconino County	37,516	47,868	57,817	64,156	71%
Gila County	22,050	27,107	31,443	31,072	41%
Graham County	8,094	10,411	11,989	12,626	56%
Greenlee County	3,235	3,524	3,968	4,016	24%
La Paz County	8,329	13,129	13,529	11,345	36%
Maricopa County	201,879	319,951	490,571	565,629	180%
Mohave County	42,290	68,427	96,119	102,450	142%
Navajo County	31,195	38,790	48,696	48,726	56%
Pima County	139,703	191,645	252,319	275,133	97%
Pinal County	39,896	65,839	120,587	128,715	223%
Santa Cruz County	8,633	12,007	17,014	17,703	105%
Yavapai County	50,229	75,956	103,530	114,395	128%
Yuma County	7,282	10,046	12,088	12,524	72%
Totals	653,144	950,860	1,334,230	1,461,103	124%



Diamond Fire – 2023

Rob Schumacher, The Republic

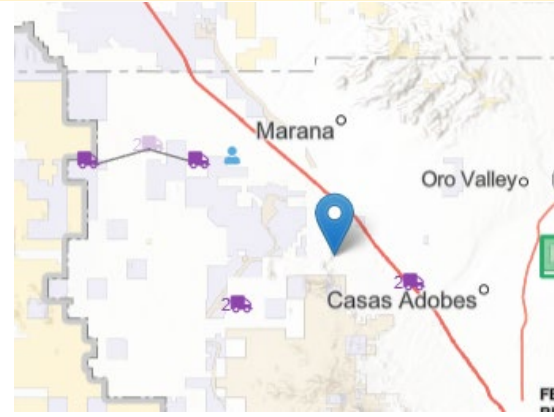
** WUI is the area where structures and other human developments meet or intermingle with wildland vegetation.*

1990 – 2020 WUI Change:

- **Pinal County: 223% increase**
- **Statewide: 124% increase**

Wildfire Response

RESPONSE LEVELS				
District	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4
A1S	LOW	LOW	LOW	
A2S	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW
A3S	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD
A4S	LOW	LOW	LOW	
A5S	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW



Unit: AZA3S, Year: 2025, Inc Num: 250466, Type: Smoke Chk, Subtype: Within Fire Dept

Incident Name: MSC PVT - I-10 MM 302, Order Number: 1411, Discovery Date: 04/03/2025

ADS is Sit/209

TDC-044 - TD044
LAT/LON D.M.S: 31°57'50" N x 110°21'10" W D.M: 31°57.84 N x 110°21.10 W

LOC RESP CMNT ACTNS DIST FREQ LOG NUMBR NOTF
IC SMOKE CHK FISC IRWIN IWM

Response Level: Mod, Resource Status: Assign, Timer, Rem

Re	Pl	Or	Av
WTS2	1	1	1
CR...	1	1	1
ENGA	2	2	2
ENG3	0	0	0
ENG4	0	0	0
ENG5	0	0	0
ENG6	0	0	0
WTT1	0	0	0
WTS1	0	0	0
WTT2	0	0	0
WTT3	0	0	0
WTS3	0	0	0

Select Clear ©Type

ENGA MSC WTPH
MSC ENG PH CRW2
BNS ENG PH Ft Grant 1

Response Models

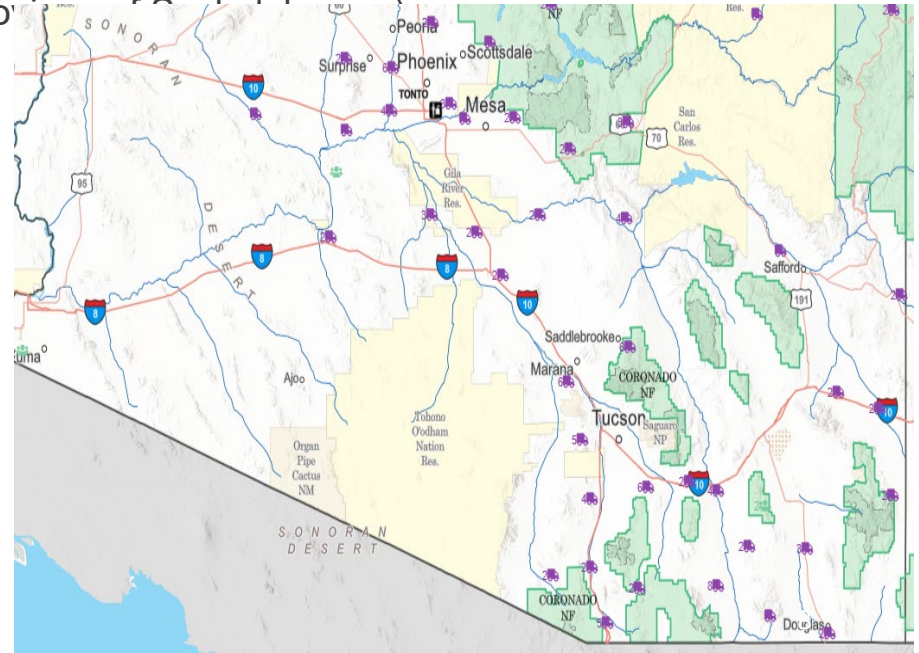
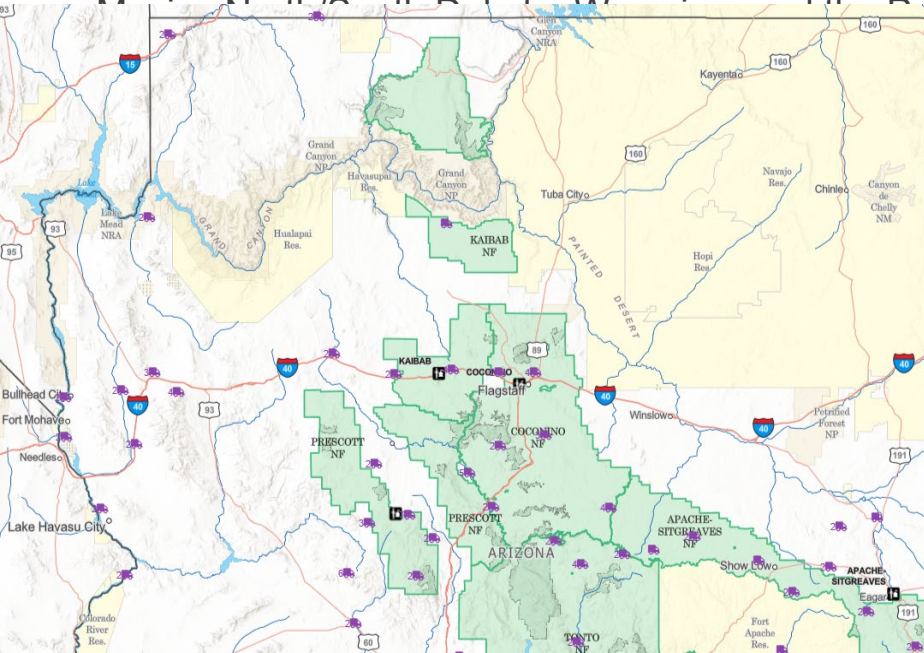
Low - 1 engine

Moderate - 2 engines OR 1 engine and 1 crew, 1 water tender, 1 ICT3/ICT4

High - 3 engines, 1 water tender, 1 ICT3/ICT4, 1 air attack or 1 helicopter, 1 hand crew

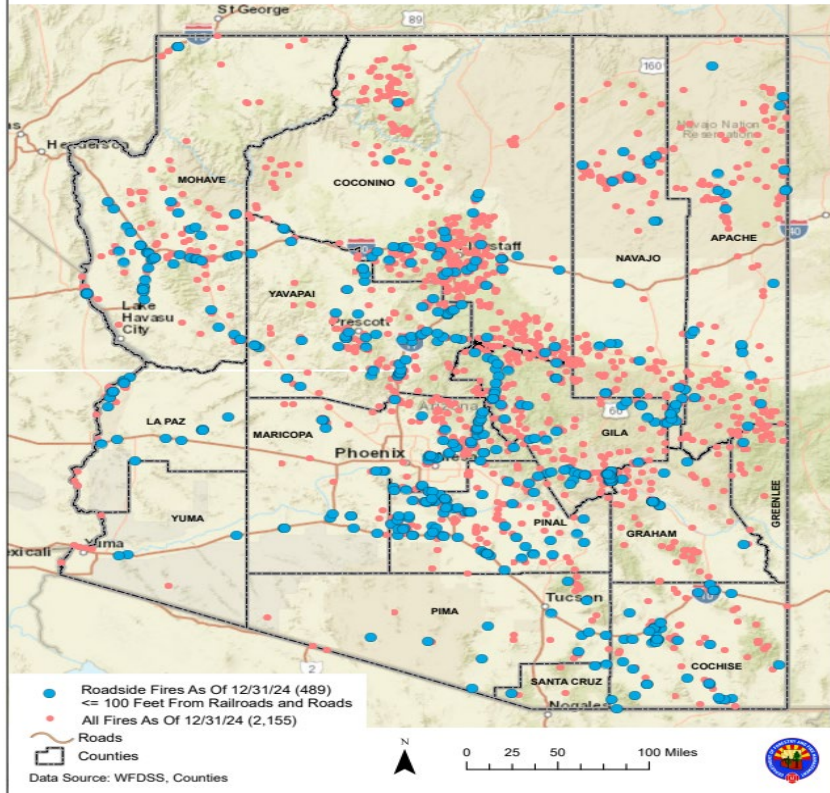
Wildfire Response

- 1,700 pieces of equipment (engines, water tenders)
- 3,200 overhead personnel
- 12 crews
- 124 active agreements with local fire departments
- Joined Great Plains Interstate Fire Compact (Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New



Wildfire Response

2024 FIRES



2024 Statistics

- 568 fires on DFFM jurisdiction
- 1,030 structures were destroyed
- Processed 952 smoke reports
- Filled over 4,000 resource requests (in/out of state)
- 190,000 gallons of retardant used
- Flew aircraft on 52 fires (50% assists to federal partners)

Human caused fires by dispatch zone

Center	AZADC	AZFDC	AZPDC	AZPHC	AZSDC	AZTDC	AZWDC
Fires	187	316	175	475	96	40	38
Acres	22,553	957	4,585	65,704	2,231	221	35

Pinal County

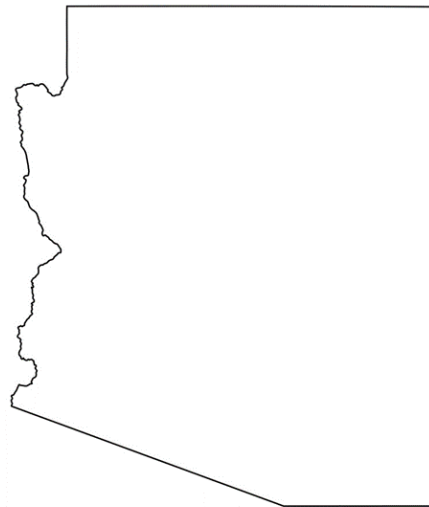
- 87 fires - 51,340 acres - 81 were human caused

Wildfire Mitigation Program

Purpose: Identify and remove hazardous vegetation from state, federal, tribal, and private lands.

- Fire Prevention
- Critical Infrastructure Protection
- Forest and Watershed Restoration

All lands in Arizona with a focus in high-priority WUI state and private unincorporated lands.



Wildfire Mitigation Program

Work is accomplished by utilizing

1. Contractors
2. Internal DFFM crews (20)
3. Grants

Types of Treatment: Mechanical (Logging, mastication), Hand, Chemical, and Prescribed burning (pile and broadcast)



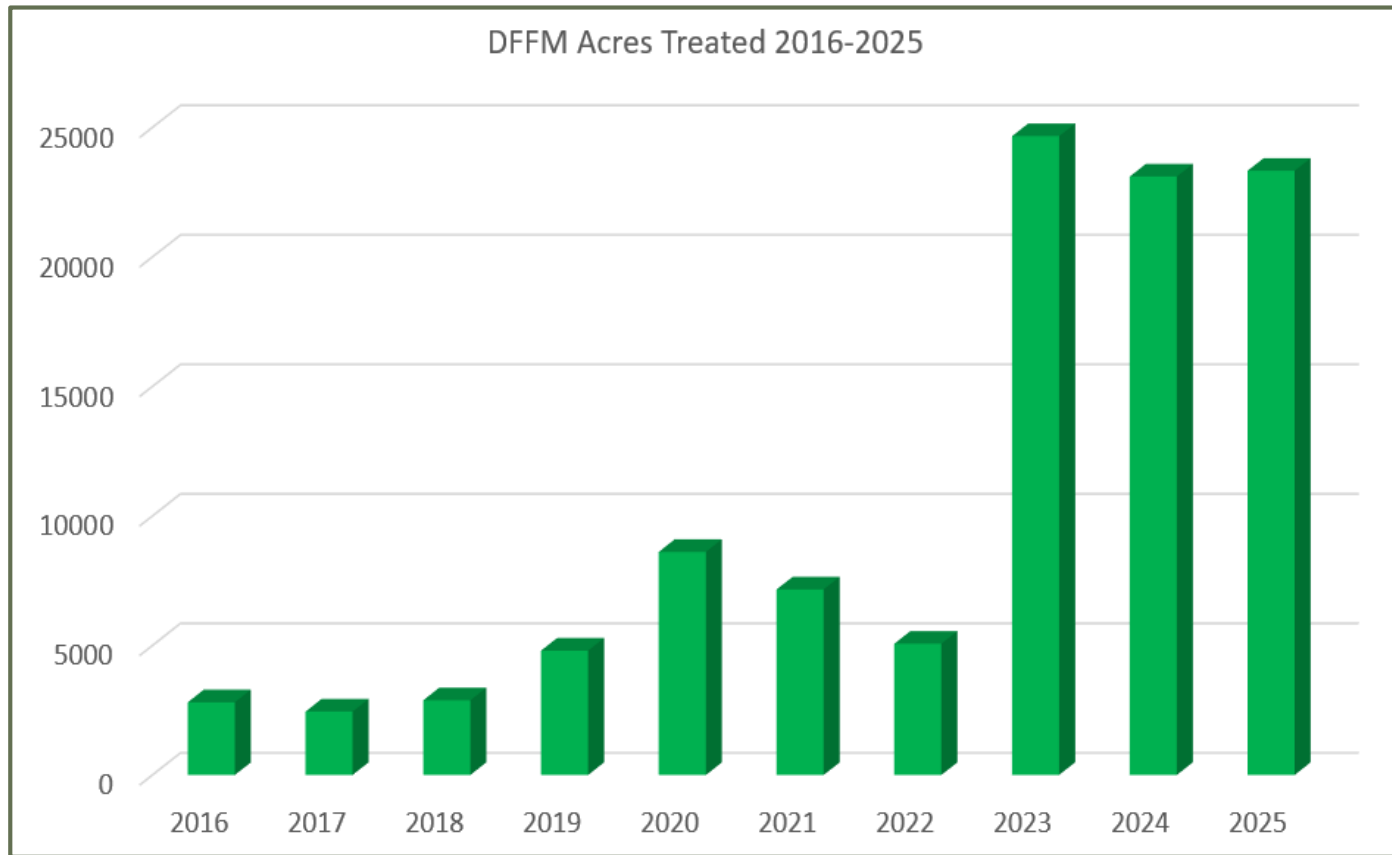
Wildfire Mitigation Program

Pre-2021 (Telegraph Fire), limited state funding was available to DFFM for wildfire mitigation.

Pre-2021, approximately 4,000 acres treated per year.

Post-2021, and with new legislatively appropriated funding for wildfire mitigation, acres increased significantly.

Wildfire Mitigation Program



**30,000 acres
in SFY25**

increasing to

**40,000 acres
in SFY26**

Wildfire Mitigation Program

23,975

**TOTAL ACRES
TREATED**

DFFM treated a total of 23,975 acres in SFY24. 32% of those acres were accomplished in our southern district, much of which was prescribed burning.

15,931

**NON-STATE LAND
ACRES**

Of the total acres treated, 15,931 acres were non-state land projects (federal, private, municipal, county, tribal, and others). 5,958 acres were treated by DFFM on USFS land, via Good Neighbor Authority.



Wildfire Mitigation Program

13

COUNTIES THAT RECEIVED TREATMENT

DFFM conducted wildfire mitigation in all but 2 counties. 51% of work was conducted in Yavapai, Pima, and Coconino Counties.

104

GRANT AWARDS ADMINISTERED

DFFM grants staff administered 104 grant awards for a total of 6,403 acres treated. \$7,290,640 in grants for 7,086 acres were also awarded, with work occurring over the next 3 years.



Wildfire Mitigation Program

46%

PRIVATE CONTRACTORS

Private contractors completed 46% of all work conducted, most of which was mechanical treatment. Mechanical includes the use of heavy equipment for harvesting and masticating.

8

DIFFERENT VEGETATION TYPES

DFFM implemented projects in 8 different vegetation types. Ponderosa Pine and Pinyon-Juniper woodlands represented 56% of treatment.



Wildfire Mitigation Program

Master Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) agreement was signed with the USFS in October 2021.

MOU's established with national forests to treat more than 100,000 acres over the next 10 years.

In 2024 for GNA:

5,958 acres treated

15,086 pre-sale acres marked



Wildfire Mitigation Program

Annually accept applications for our Healthy Forest Initiative Grant Program with funding requests of \$60,000 to \$500,000.

Priority given to projects that target high risk areas, have a clear sustainability plan, and that support Arizona's vegetation management and/or wood product industries.

<https://dffm.az.gov/grants/hazard-fuels/hfi>



Wildfire Mitigation Program

**DFFM FITS Portal**

[Fiscal Year Report](#) [Project Map](#) [3D Map](#) [About](#)

Vegetation Types
0 Selected

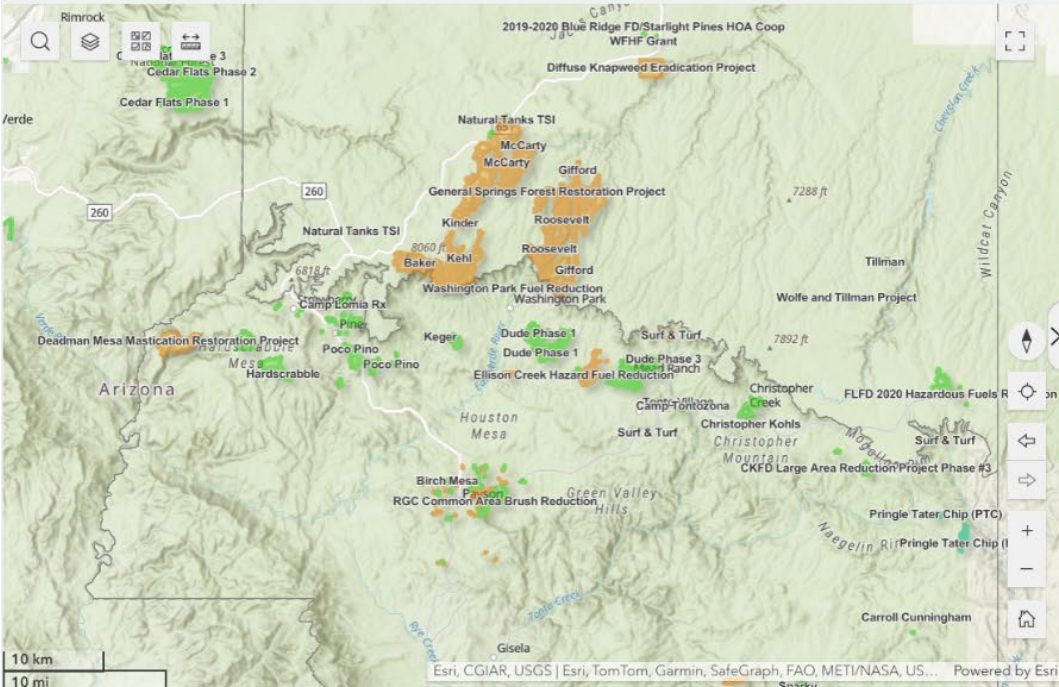
Unit Treatment Type
0 Selected

Unit_Land_Owner
0 Selected

Project Status
0 Selected

Filtered Treatment Areas
648

Total Treatment Areas
648



Esri, CGIAR, USGS | Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, US... Powered by Esri

Implementation Unit Metrics

Project Type	Forestry Project
Project ID or Grant Number	24HF39-FLA2
Project Name	Flagstaff WUI Rx
Project Unit ID	Crater Sinks West USFS
Unit_Status	Ongoing
Unit Funding Recipient	DFFM Fire Crew Winslow
Unit Funding Code	HFI
Unit Funding General	State
Unit Treatment Type	Prescribed Burn Broadcast
Unit_Acres_Proposed	1,647.7
GIS Acres	3.0
Unit Total Treated Acres	695.5
Unit Vegetation Types	Ponderosa Pine
Unit Total Removed Tons	0.0
Project Status	In-Progress
Project Start Date	9/23/2024

Treatment Areas List

*Select a Project Area (Unit) to see it on the Map

Forestry Project (In-Progress)
Flagstaff WUI Rx
Unit: Crater Sinks West USFS
[Details](#)

Forestry Project (Completed)
City Wells Rx
Unit: City Wells RX State
[Details](#)

Forestry Project (Completed)
City Wells Rx
Unit: City Wells RX City
[Details](#)

Forestry Project (In-Progress)
BLM - Hazardous Fuels Reduction
Unit: Christmas/Shores Recreation Site
[Details](#)

Total: 648 | Selection: 1



END